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AN ACCOUNT

Of the Behaviour of Sir *John Fenwick*, at his Execution on *Tower-Hill*; with the Copy of the Paper delivered by him to the Sheriffs of *London*, &c.

SIR *John Fenwick*, on the Day of his Execution, aroſe at Four a Clock in the Morning, and was privat until Seven: At Ten he came out of *Newgate* into a Mourning Coach, was received by the Sheriffs and Guards, and conducted to *Tower-Hill*; in his paſſage he fix'd his Eyes on a Prayer Book, and ſpoke not a word to any perſon. So numerous were the Spectators, that it was paſt Eleven half an Hour before he came upon the Scaffold; where it was obſerved at firſt, that he ſeemed to be ſomewat ſurprized, and for a few Moments ſtood Speechleſs, but ſoon after appeared with great compoſure of Mind; and after ſaluting thoſe on the Scaffold, deſired Dr. *White* to pray with him: Which being over, he thank'd the Sheriffs for their Civilities, and delivered them a Paper, deſiring them to do him that Juſtice as to give it the King. He then prayed again, and having forgiven the Executioner, prepared himſelf for the Block, and the Sign being given, the Executioner, at one blow, ſever'd his Head from his Body; which was brought in a Hearſe to one Mr. *Metcalf*'s, an Upholſter, at the *Helmet* in *Fleet-ſtreet*, and thence, that Night, privatly Interred in the Church of St. *Martins* in the Field. The Sheriffs, according to his deſire, delivered the Paper to the King; which is as follows.

SPeaking nor Writing was never my Talent; I ſhall therefore give a very ſhort, but faithful Account. Firſt, Of my Religion; and next, What I ſuffer moſt innocently for, to avoid the Calumnies I may reaſonably expect my Enemies will caſt upon me when Dead, ſince they have moſt falſly and maliciouſly aſperſed me, whilſt under my Misfortunes.

As for my Religion; I was brought up in the Church of *England*, as it is Eſtabliſhed by Law, and have ever profeſſed it; tho, I confeſs, I have been an unworthy Member of it, in not living up to the ſtrict and excellent Rules thereof, for which I take ſhame to my ſelf, and humbly ask forgiveneſs of God. I come now to Die in that Communion, truſting, as an humble and hearty Penitent, to be received by the Mercy of God, through the Merits of Jeſus Chriſt my Saviour.

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My Religion taught me my Loyalty, which I bleſs God, is untainted; and I have ever endeavoured, in the Station wherein I have been placed, to the utmoſt of my power, to ſupport the Crown of *England*, in the true and lineal courſe of Deſcent, without interruption.

As for what I am now to Die, I call God to witneſs, I went not to that Meeting in *Leaden-Hall-Street* with any ſuch intention, as to Invite King *James* by Force to Invade this Nation; nor was I my ſelf provided with either Horſe or Arms, or engaged for any number of Men, or gave particular conſent for any ſuch Invaſion, as is moſt falſly Sworn againſt me.

I do alſo declare, in the preſence of GOD, that I knew nothing of King *James* his coming to *Calais*, nor of any Invaſion intended from thence, till it was publickly known; and the only Notion I had that ſomething might be attempted, was from the *Thoulon* Fleet coming to *Breſt*.

I alſo call GOD to witneſs, that I received the knowledge, of what is contained in thoſe Papers that I gave to a Great Man that came to me in the *Tower*, both from Letters and Meſſages that came from *France*; and he told me, when I read them to him, that the Prince of *Orange* had been acquainted with moſt of thoſe things before:

I might have expected Mercy from that Prince, becauſe I was Inſtrumental in ſaving his Life; for when, about *April* 95, an Attempt formed againſt him, came to my knowledge, I did partly by Diſſwaſions, and partly by Delays, prevent that Deſign; which, I ſuppoſe, was the reaſon that the laſt Villainous Project was concealed from me.

If there be any Perſons whom I have Injured in Word or Deed, I heartily pray their Pardon, and beg of GOD to Pardon thoſe who have injured me; particularly, thoſe who with great Zeal hath ſought my Life, and brought the guilt of my Innocent Blood upon this Nation, no Treaſon being proved upon me.

I return my moſt hearty Thanks to thoſe Noble and worthy Perſons who gave their Aſſiſtance, by oppoſing this Bill of Attainder; without which, it had been Impoſſible I could have fallen under the Sentence of Death. God bleſs them and their Poſterity; tho', I am fully ſatisfied, they pleaded their own Cauſe while they defended mine.

And now, O God, I do with all humble Devotion commend my Soul into thy Hands, the great Maker and Preſerver of Men, and Lover of Souls; beſeeching thee, that it may be always dear and precious in thy ſight, through the Merits of my Saviour Jeſus Chriſt. Amen.

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